Eggplant growing. 1/2

Being an important nutritious crop, eggplant growing and production is affected by the mode of production and variety.

As aubergine belongs to solanaceous family, its scientific name is solanum melongena which is an annual cultivated herbaceous plant although stems with with their lignified woody tissue make it resemble a small tree bush. It possesses a very strong deep root system and strong stem which are hairy and thorny with determined growth rate as well as indefinite growth rate.

Crop establishment

Similarly, main stem include short internodes which folk out into secondary stems which divide at leaf axils. Leaves are oval and large with thorny nerves and long stalk positioned alternately along stem.

Furthermore, leaves underneath are greyish down while flowers droop and appear by them selves or in clusters of 3-5. Flowers possess between 5-7 green sepals and elongated violet petals as well as the highly developed anthers of stamen situated under stigma make direct fertilization difficult.

The fruit is egg-shaped or bulbous berry, black, purple, white or white tinged purple or green with small yellow seeds. Aubergine requires warm dry climate and thrives i high temperatures as long as the humidity is at right levels as it can tolerate high temperatures of 40-45 degrees centigrade though the average is 23-25.

Not only the above but also with regard to optimum relative humidity of 50% and 60%, a very high relative humidity encourage development of airborne diseases making fertilization difficult. Aubergine plant requires daily sunlight of between 10 to 12 hours and best soils for growing

this crop is deep loamy soils with optimum pH of 6 and 7 while pH 7 and pH 8.5 for sandy soils.

Finally, use of acidic soils cause problems with regard to growth and production of crop. Considering salinity and water used to irrigate, aubergine is less resistant than tomato and more resistant than pepper.